

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OPR-02 EUR-25 NIC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 AID-20 PC-04 FBO-01 /155 W

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P R 201645 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO RUEHVKXSECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1827

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2847

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MANAGUA 2799

1. CONSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT MANAGUA CLOSED DOWN ON JUNE 20 AS THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION (SCAAS) LAUNCHED A GENERAL STRIKE TO ENFORCE ITS DEMANDS FOR HIGHER WAGES. THE FIRST FORMAL NEGOTIATING SESSION TO CONSIDER THE WORKERS' DEMANDS TOOK PLACE JUNE 19 IN THE OFFICE OF ACTING LABOR MINISTER MUNIZ OTERO. REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH SCAAS AND THE CONSTRUCTION CHAMBER PARTICIPATED.

2. PRIOR TO THE MORNING OF JUNE 20 THE PARTIAL STRIKE HAD BEEN CONTINUING AT THE RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL REPORTED IN REFTTEL AS BOTH SIDES DECLARED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE. THE WORKERS THEMSELVES ARE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY HAVE STRUCK WHILE APPARENT GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THEIR SALARY DEMANDS ARE TAKING
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PLACE. WHEN ASKED WHY THEY ARE ON STRIKE, THEY REPLY THAT THEY WANT HIGHER WAGES, THAT THEY ARE SHOWING THEIR SOLIDARITY FOR OTHER SITES WHICH ARE ALSO STRUCK, AND THAT THE SCAAS LEADERSHIP HAS ORDERED THEM TO STRIKE.

3. ALL CONSTRUCTION AT THE EMBASSY SITE , INCLUDING THE AID OFFICE BUILDING, HAS BEEN CLOSED DOWN BY THE STRIKE.

4. SEPTTEL WILL FOLLOW WITH NEGOTIATING POSTIONS OF SCAAS AND THE CONSTRUCTION CHAMBER.

5. COMMENT: BOTH THE WORKERS AND THEIR LEADERSHIP SHOW A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE AFTER THEIR VICTORY IN THE 60 HOUR STRIKE. THE DECISION TO STRIKE WHEN NEGOTIATIONS HAVE JUST BEGUN AND WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION CHAMBER HAS GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO INDICATE A DESIRE TO SETTLE THE WAGE QUESTION PEACEFULLY INDICATES THAT THE STRIKE MAY HAVE POLITICIAL AS WELL AS LABOR MOTIVES IN THE EYES OF THE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP OF SCAAS.

WARNER

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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MULTIPLE
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